

Model Farm
The Green
Upper Poppleton
York
YO26 6DP
www.projectmala.org
01904 341004



Mala News

Patrons
Felicity Kendal CBE
Maharaja of Benares
Sir Mark Tully OBE
Lady Young
Madeline Weinrib
Obeetee Pvt Ltd
Surya Inc

It is always our pleasure to have visitors and sponsors taking their time out to visit the schools and see how the sponsorship is being used for the children. Following is a writeup by one of our visitors, Mr Ben Garland, who spent a few days in our schools at the end of last year.

Visitor's View on Project Mala Schools

Before arriving at Project Mala, I wasn't quite sure what it would be like. The students, the staff, the facilities - but I certainly did not expect to be so amazed and impressed by every aspect of these schools.

Starting with the curriculum, I was astonished by the level in which these children were learning. Repeatedly I expressed how impressed I was at the level in which these children were learning at. From class 1 all the way to class 12. Being unable to speak Hindi myself, I can only confidently comment on the math and English lessons, but I feel this was enough to gauge the general ability and success of the curriculum across other subjects as well.

At one point I entered a pre-school class during their math lesson, and I was welcomed in and got the opportunity to test some of the girls on their subtraction skills. Due to the math I knew/was learning at that age, I gave them a few sums which I had thought were appropriate; quickly I realised that these children were far more advanced than I was at that age, as they were completing these sums in seconds. When I then saw the complexity of the sums their teacher would give them, and how they could manage to work through these, I was beyond impressed.



The high level of written and spoken English of the children at Project Mala was something that I was not expecting to see. I felt that I could have spoken to almost any child across these schools, and they would have understood and been able to return at least a basic level of English. The older year groups were able to have full and proper conversations with me about a variety of different topics in English, highlighting that they have been taught to speak English to a very high level. One of the things I enjoyed most about my time at Project Mala was the opportunity to speak to the children and for them to practice their English with a native speaker, as they were all very keen and confident to do so. The passion these children have for learning and the confidence these schools has nurtured in them, is something that will undoubtedly follow them for life, and give them the upmost of opportunities to better their lives and their families as they move on into the bigger world post-Project Mala.

Whilst at Project Mala Guria, I was lucky enough to meet one of the best scoring graduates from the previous year at Project Mala. He had come back to give a talk/lesson to some of the older children at the school, on how to best revise for certain exams which are required when leaving the school and entering particular fields of work. For me, witnessing a previous pupil, taking time out of his own studies, to come and help better the learning and future of the year groups below him at this school, simply highlights the unity, respect and appreciation many of these

students have for these schools, and the education they have been gifted with through the presence of Project Mala.

It was inspiring to see the dedication and love the teachers at these school have for their job and the children. It is rare in the western world to see such committed and enthusiastic teachers these days, and it was refreshing to see this. I soon learnt through my visits to each of the schools that many of the teachers working at Project Mala were actually students there themselves many years prior. The love and appreciation these teachers have for these schools and the opportunities it has given them was touching to see, and no doubt given many of their pupils a real life example of what a bright future and successful career they can have ahead of them.

On the final day of my visit I was lucky enough to watch the local school's kabaddi championship, hosted at Project Mala Guria. The unity of the pupils and teachers on this day of extracurricular activity was heart-warming, and I feel very lucky to have been here to witness such unity through this event.

To bare witness to children from often very tough backgrounds flourishing both socially and academically in such a safe, supportive and nurturing environment is a testament to everyone who is combined to keep Project Mala running. These children are given real a chance. A chance to find their own paths in life, and given all the resources they might need to finish this school and follow their dream careers, leaving my thoughts on the Project Mala schools as nothing short of phenomenal.

A special thanks to all involved in keeping this charity running, it was a honour to bare witness to so many children's lives being changed for the better.



By Ben Garland

Project Mala
01904 341004
mail@projectmala.org
www.projectmala.org

Follow us on



You have received this message from Project Mala. You can [unsubscribe](#) or [report abuse](#).

Project Mala, Model Farm, The Green, Upper Poppleton, York, York, United Kingdom.